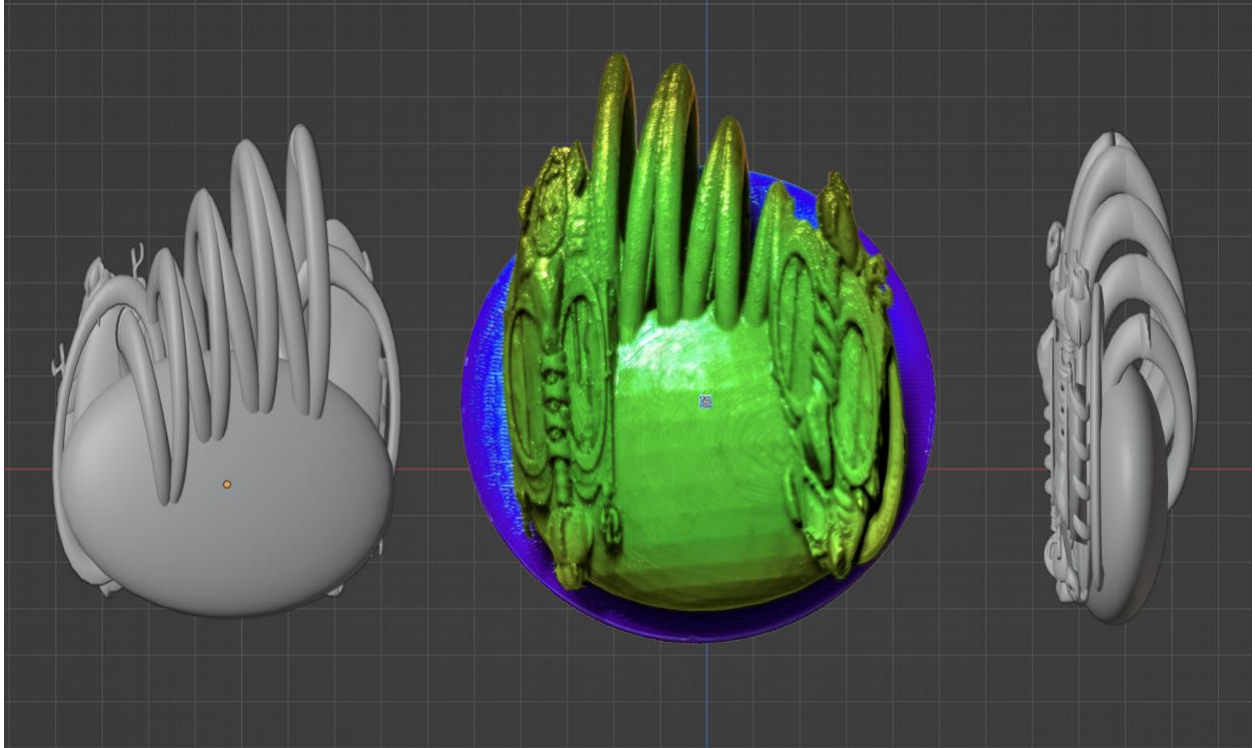




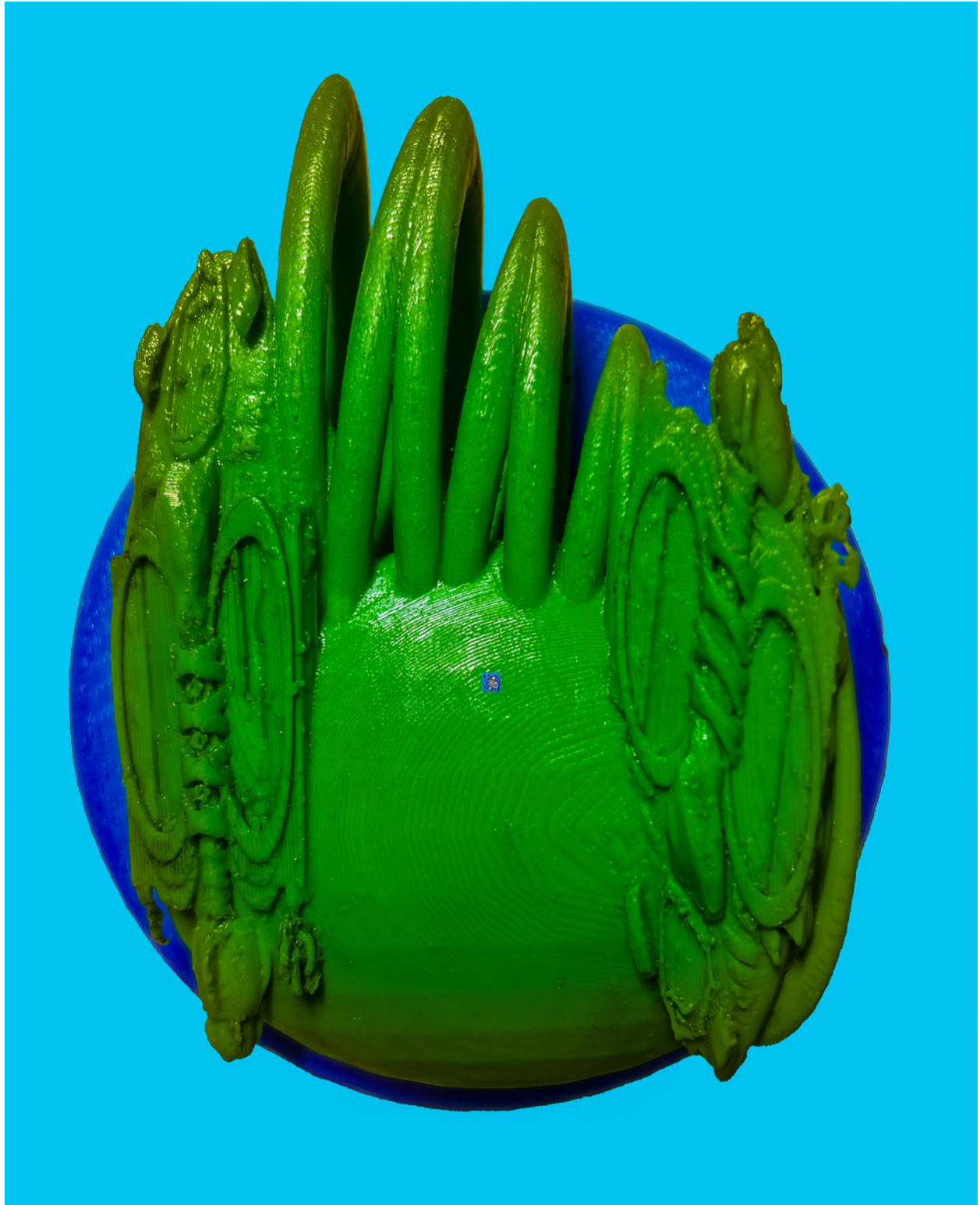
Solar Orbit

By Fred Truck

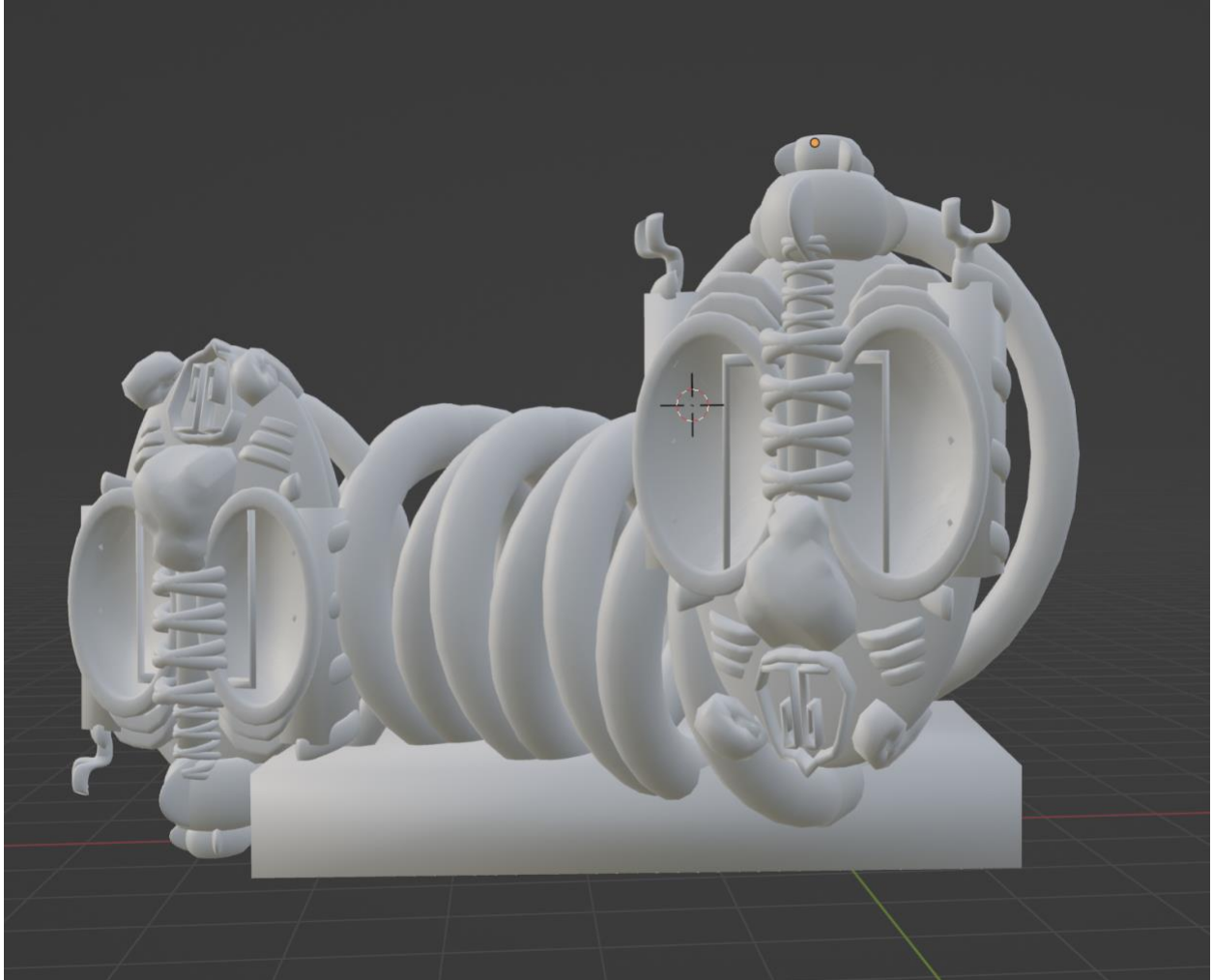
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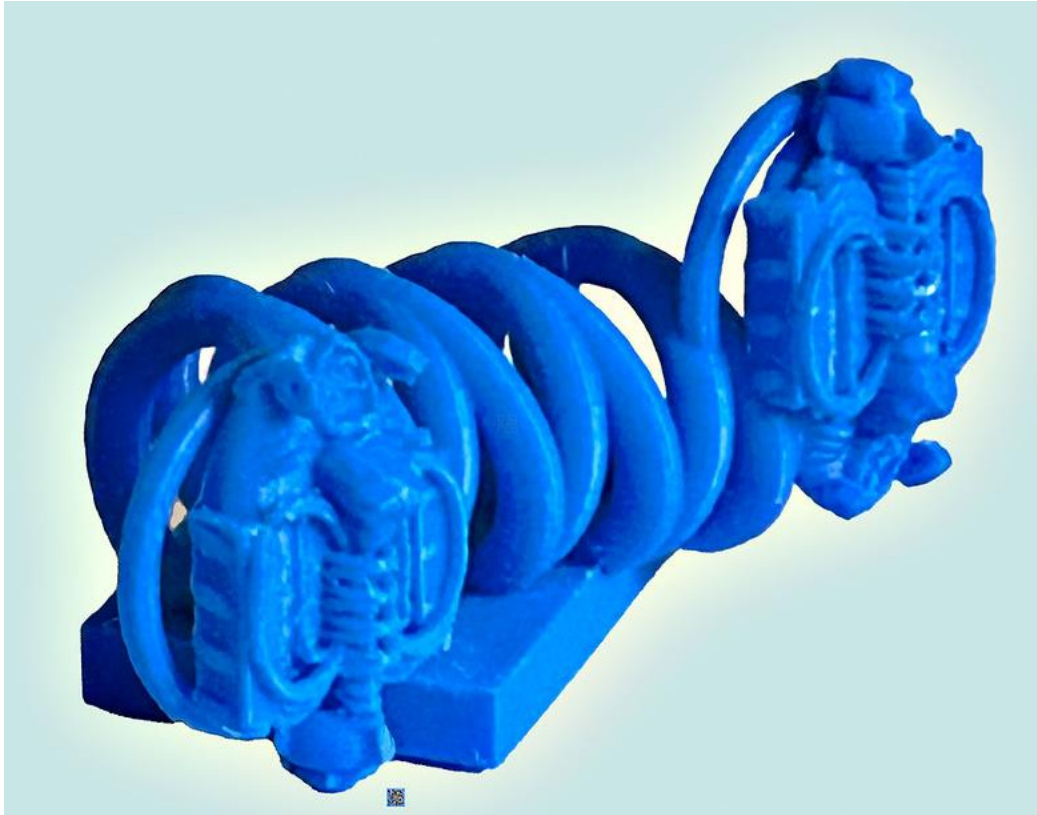
The sculpture above, which I call **Solar Orbit**, is a development of many similar images I've rendered in PLA plastic, all based on this 3D design:



This design represents the 2 strands of a human chromosome, each strand having its own head based loosely on the Mayan Sun God. The front head is Life, but the back head though exactly the same as the front head, is upside-down. It is a Death Head.

Digital Blue Chromosome

This PLA sculpture is my version of a human chromosome, complete with double helix DNA coils. In the picture below, the back head (the one furthest from you) is in the normal position, but the front head (closest to you) is upside down. The front head is a Death's Head.



I made quite a few different sized versions of the Chromosome always in different colors, but something bothered me...

For one thing, both the Sun Heads are expressionless, too calm.

What was missing in this small sculpture, I felt, was the sense of struggle. Initially, I imagined the struggle would be the Live head trying to free itself from the primeval goo surrounding it as in the yolk of the cosmic egg. Then, increasing the sense of a fight, I saw the combat as being between the two heads for dominance.

One of the great advantages of 3D drawing on the computer is that due to the very plastic nature of the digital objects you draw, you can stretch, pull, squash, punch or otherwise deform the objects as if they were clay. This is how I brought expression to the solar heads. But mostly only the Live head. Death doesn't change too much...

Traditional sculpture is mounted on a pedestal.

—*Mobiles, traditionally invented by Alexander Calder. A **mobile** is a type of kinetic sculpture constructed to take advantage of the principle of equilibrium. It consists of a*

number of rods, from which weighted objects or further rods hang. The objects hanging from the rods balance each other, so that the rods remain more or less horizontal. Each rod hangs from only one string, which gives it the freedom to rotate about the string. An ensemble of these balanced parts hang freely in space, by design without coming into contact with each other.

--Wikipedia

Solar Orbit is not a mobile. It can move, but motion is imparted to the sculpture by an observer, not the wind. It is a 3D object that embodies the concept of a simple, familiar rotation in 2 dimensions, occurring within a plane around a point.

I mounted the PLA sculpture on a digital blue turntable I printed in PLA. I downloaded the files from Thingiverse:

<https://www.thingiverse.com/thing:3027027>. They were authored by ToriLeighR.

I reduced the size of the turntable to make it proportional to the sculpture.

As for the sculpture itself, the Life and Death heads retain their reversible natures in rotation, but the body of the double helix Chromosome remains the same up or down.

